

Daniel Todd Patterson to Andrew Jackson, January 7, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COMMODORE DANIEL T. PATTERSON TO JACKSON.

West Bank of the Mississippi, January 7, 1815.

Sir, I have this moment returned from reconnoitering the Enemy. they have dug out Villeré's Canal to the River, and from the number of men soldiers and seamen, I apprehend they will get their Boats into the River tonight, they have a large Body of men encamped contiguous to the Canals all of whom I saw under Arms. they have also taken Cannon from their Batteries erected near the woods, and deposited them either in Boats or on the Bank of the Canal. I distinctly saw them transporting one piece which from the number of Horses employed (eight), I presumed must be heavy. should they cross to-night, and only the Force at present on this side to oppose them, they must succeed. I would therefore beg leave most earnestly to recommend an increase of our present Force. and that such reinforcement be of Better Materials than the present, who tho individually Brave, cannot be depended upon. I have drawn all the men on shore from the ship, except those indispensably necessary to take care of her. the officer who will hand you this accompanied me on reconnitre. I have informed Genl. morgan of my observations,

Very Respectfully I have the honor to be